POL 14 VIETS

MING TELEGRAM *Department of State* DECLASSIFIED

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Saigon 1306

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EXCISE

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
RUWHHQA/CINCPAC
RUVJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
STATE GRNC
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 1306

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER COMPLAINTS AGAINST PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES VOTED JULY 17 IN FAVOR OF SUSTAINING COMPLAINT AGAINST THIEU/KY TICKET. IT ALSO VOTED TO RECOMMEND THAT BIG MINH BE ALLOWED TO RUN. HOWEVER, WHEN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE CAME TO THE ASSEMBLY ON MORNING OF JULY 18, THESE VOTES WERE NOT REPORTED, AND COMMITTEE MADE NO FORMAL RECOMMENDATION TO THE ASSEMBLY ON THIEU/KY AND MINH/LIENG SLATES. AT INSISTENCE OF A NUMBER OF DEPUTIES, COMMITTEE NEVERTHELESS MADE KNOWN TO FULL

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 1306 C O N F I D E N T I A L
ASSEMBLY ITS VOTE ON BOTH SLATES. (VOTE WAS 8 TO 4 AGAINST THIEU/KY WITH ONE ABSTENTION AND 8-5 IN FAVOR OF BIG MINH.)

2. BEFORE RECESSING FOR LUNCH ASSEMBLY VOTED TO POST FOR SECOND TIME SIX LISTS AGAINST WHOM THERE HAVE BEEN NO COMPLAINTS. ASSEMBLY ALSO APPROVED FOUR SLATES AGAINST WHOM COMPLAINTS WERE FILED; IN THESE FOUR CASES THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE CONSIDERED THAT THE COMPLAINTS GAVE INSUFFICIENT GROUNDS FOR DISQUALIFICATION. TICKETS APPROVED THUS FAR ARE SUU/DAN, KY/DINH, HUONG/TRUYEN, LY/DUONG, HIEP/TRUYEN, BINH/KHINH, DZU/CHIEU, CO/SINH, KHANH/DONG, QUAT/CHAN.

3. ASSEMBLY HAS RECESSED FOR LUNCH AND WILL RECONVENE AT 1600 TO CONSIDER EIGHT REMAINING CASES INCLUDING THOSE OF BIG MINH, THIEU/KY AND AU TRUONG THANH. IT IS LIKELY TO COMPLETE CONSIDERATION OF ALL TICKETS BY END OF DAY.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 10/7/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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4. MEMBERSHIP ON NA'S SPECIAL COMMITTEE EVENLY DIVIDED BETWEEN THREE BLOCS AND INDEPENDENTS. IT THUS DOESONOT TRSNY REFLECT COMPOSITION OF ASSEMBLY. WE THINK IT PROBABLE THAT THIEU/KY SLATE WILL BE APPROVED.

5. WITH RESPECT TO BIG MINH, SITUATION IS CONFUSED. LE PHUOC SANG AND THE DEMOCRATIC [redacted] (#) [redacted] b-1 e-2

INDICATE THAT THEY ARE DOING SO ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRIME MINISTER KY. IF THIS PROVES TRUE, ODDS THAT BIG MINH WILL BE ALLOWED TO RUN ARE PROBABLY BETTER THAN 50-50.

6. THERE ARE NUMBER OF RUMORS FLYING HERE IN SAIGON, INCLUDING USUAL COUP TALK. PRESS MAY REPORT SOME OF THESE STORIES, BUT ALL SUCH REPORTS ARE AT THE MOMENT QUITE UNCONFIRMED. UNLESS ASSEMBLY ACTUALLY ELIMINATES THIEU-KY, WE CONSIDER IT UNLIKELY THAT ANY OF THE GENERALS WILL MAKE ANY RASH MOVES.

7. FULL REPORT OF ASSEMBLY SESSION FOLLOWS SEPTEL.

BUNKER
BT

(#)OMISSION. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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4. MEMBERSHIP ON NA'S SPECIAL COMMITTEE EVENLY DIVIDED BETWEEN THREE BLOCS AND INDEPENDENTS. IT THUS DOESONOT TRSNY REFLECT COMPOSITION OF ASSEMBLY. WE THINK IT PROBABLE THAT THIEU/KY SLATE WILL BE APPROVED.

5. WITH RESPECT TO BIG MINH, SITUATION IS CONFUSED. LE PHUOC SANG AND THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE APPEAR TO SUPPORT BIG MINH'S CANDIDACY. INDICATE THAT THEY ARE DOING SO ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRIME MINISTER KY. IF THIS PROVES TRUE, ODDS THAT BIG MINH WILL BE ALLOWED TO RUN ARE PROBABLY BETTER THAN 50-50.

6. THERE ARE NUMBER OF RUMORS FLYING HERE IN SAIGON, INCLUDING USUAL COUP TALK. PRESS MAY REPORT SOME OF THESE STORIES, BUT ALL SUCH REPORTS ARE AT THE MOMENT QUITE UNCONFIRMED. UNLESS ASSEMBLY ACTUALLY ELIMINATES THIEU-KY, WE CONSIDER IT UNLIKELY THAT ANY OF THE GENERALS WILL MAKE ANY RASH MOVES.

7. FULL REPORT OF ASSEMBLY SESSION FOLLOWS SEPTEL.

BUNKER

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